

Dakota Butcher



Randy Gruenwald purchased Dakota Butcher in 2009 in Clark, reopening a store after the previous owner had closed the store and walked away. While he kept his regular job at a bank, Randy and his wife Karen began with four full-time employees, worked to rebuild customer loyalty, and started on an ambitious plan of expansion. In 2015, after leaving his bank position to work full time at the store, Gruenwald expanded the company to Watertown and opened two new sites.

In 2020, Randy grew the Dakota Butcher brand further across South Dakota, opening a new site in Madison. In addition, they also began selling their products through coolers setup at many convenience stores and other locations throughout eastern South Dakota. Dakota Butcher now provides jobs for 70 people, including his son and daughter-in-law who joined the business.

Beyond the business, one of Dakota Butcher's main focuses is community outreach including actively contributing to youth programs. As an example, Gruenwald shares expertise with Future Farmers of America classes to help educate the next generation of ranchers and farmers on meat processing.

Randy has had a relationship with the Small Business Administration and their resource partners for many years. He worked with the Small Business Development Center when he made his first business purchase and continued that relationship as he grew and expanded. Dakota Butcher was able to apply and secure two SBA microloans and a 504 loan to purchase and expand the business with help from GROW South Dakota, an SBA Microlender.

“Dakota Butcher is the epitome of how small businesses are the backbone of our communities and economy.”

- Jaime Wood, SBA SD District Director

